



the gay weekly

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gay community news

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June 12, 1976

Dyketactics Support Students

Prom Date Furor Erupts at Philly Girls' High

By Tommi Avicelli

PHILADELPHIA — On Monday, May 24, members of local lesbian/feminist group DYKETACTICS and a few gay male supporters, picketed outside Girl's High School to protest the harassment of lesbian students. The demonstration was sparked by several incidents, the most basic of which was the right of lesbian students to take female dates to their senior prom.

Katherine Day, an out-front lesbian at Girl's High, and two other women decided to take female dates to their prom. However, "when I heard adverse things about me from the other students," Katherine said, "I decided I wanted a support group to attend the prom." She then asked if alumni were permitted to attend school functions. She was told that they were. So

Katherine invited two women whom she believed to be alumni — Sherrie Cohen and Victoria Brownworth — to attend the prom.

When the administration discovered her intentions, Dr. Snite, Vice Principal of the school and spokesperson for the administration, told Day that alumni were not permitted to attend school functions. She tried to refund Katherine's money, but following her lawyer's advice, Day refused to accept the check.

Another lesbian student, who is not "out" at the school, according to Day, was allowed to purchase two tickets for alumni to attend the prom. When confronted with this fact, Dr. Snite told Katherine that she did not know the tickets were for alumni.

In the meantime, one of the other

two lesbians who planned to bring female dates to the prom was called into Dr. Snite's office. The woman's mother was phoned and told about her plans to bring a lesbian date. The woman's mother was supportive of her daughter's plans, however.

Sherrie Cohen — member of DYKETACTICS and an alumni of Girl's High — was contacted by Dr. Snite and told she could not attend the prom. Cohen decided not to press the issue at the time, since Day felt it would turn the students against their cause.

Day stated that the administration did "not say we couldn't bring women, but made us feel uncomfortable" with the decision.

There was "no verbal or physical harassment at the prom," Day told

GCN. However, a "straight" student who wanted to sit with the two lesbian couples (the third woman decided, after all the harassment, not to come) was prevented from doing so by the school administration.

Other forms of harassment sparking the demonstration included an incident in which a friend of Day's was threatened with arrest if she was seen near the school again. The woman, who usually waits for Katherine near where heterosexual men wait their women friends, often kissed Day or held her hand. Katherine said "There is selective enforcement of the policy" against people waiting for Girl's High students. Only those students the administration "wishes to keep in line," she feels, are harassed.

On Monday morning, about twenty

(Continued on page 3)

Baths, Bars Raided in "Cleanup"

Pre-Olympic Purge Hits Montreal

OTTAWA, Canada — In what many believe to be part of a campaign to "clean up Canada" for the Summer Olympic Games, scheduled to take place in Montreal, police harassment against gay baths and bars has increased dramatically in recent weeks.

Last week 27 people were arrested in a raid on the Club Baths in Ottawa. This follows two similar raids at steam baths in Montreal which resulted in the arrests of some 115 people. Most of those arrested were charged with being "found-in's at a bawdy house." At the same time, in Montreal, five gay bars were raided by police ostensibly looking for drugs. In two of those raids, the police entered with guns and rifles, an unusual occurrence in Canada.

Denis LeBlanc, President of Gays of Ottawa, the coordinating office for the National Gay Rights Coalition, said in a prepared statement on May 24, 1976:

"We know, from the chain of events themselves, from remarks made by policemen during their raid of the Neptune Baths, and from inside information which we have obtained from people with confidential information on Olympic security, that this is part of a concerted, national effort aimed at 'cleaning up' Canada for the Olympic Games.

"This effort is not directed solely at gay people. It is common knowledge that police forces have been visiting leftist groups and other organizations which might want to demonstrate during the Games. You are also aware of the stories from Montreal about drunks and winos being given sentences of six to eight times their normal lengths in order to keep them off the streets. We have just returned from Kingston where the local prisons are full of drunks who have been given six month sentences instead of the usual couple of days.

"Our information is that this clean-up extends from Quebec City through to Toronto. We believe that what we have seen so far in Montreal and Ottawa is only the beginning."

Gays of Ottawa has talked with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and with its elected representatives at all three levels of government in

Canada — municipal, provincial, and federal. The National Gay Rights Coalition will be contacting its 27 member organizations to plan a strategy at the national level. In Montreal, a Gay Coalition Against Repression has been formed and held a press conference on May 26, 1976, while in Ottawa, a picket was organized by

Gays of Ottawa in front of Ottawa Police Headquarters to protest this harassment by police.

In his statement, Mr. LeBlanc said, "We have no plans to disrupt the Olympic Games. We have no quarrel with these Games and we are not a disruptive or subversive element. We understand the need for security. But

we will not put up with this kind of senseless harassment. It doesn't make sense in the context of the Olympics and it doesn't make sense at any time."

For further information, contact: David Garmaise (Ottawa) 236-7083, 238-1717; Denis LeBlanc (Ottawa) 235-3988, 238-1717; or Ron Dayman (Montreal) (514) 843-6337.

Jimmy Carter Would Sign Abzug Bill

SAN FRANCISCO — Former Governor of Georgia and frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, Jimmy Carter, has announced that he would sign the national Gay Rights bill, if he is elected President. Carter made the announcement at a news conference in San Francisco on May 21, while campaigning for the California primary.

"I will certainly sign it," said Carter in response to a reporter's question, "because I don't want to single out homosexuals for special abuse or harassment."

Carter's position on gay rights had previously been subject to some dispute. In a letter to GCN in September of last year, the Georgia governor wrote, "I oppose all forms of discrimination against individuals, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. As President I can assure you that all policies of the federal government would reflect this commitment to ending all forms of discrimination." However, three weeks later, Carter told GCN reporter David Brill that he "hadn't made up his mind" on the national gay rights bill. "I don't know how we could deal with the issue of blackmail," Carter was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, announced his support of Carter's presidential bid. "I am strongly supporting Jimmy Carter because of his commitment to civil rights for all people and because of his opposition to non-job related employment discrimination," Rev. Perry stated in a full-page advertisement for Carter in Los Angeles gay bi-weekly

News West. The advertisement featured a picture of Rev. Perry discussing community issues with Rosalynn Carter, wife of the candidate.

California Gov. Brown, whom Carter faces in the pivotal California

primary this week, signed into law last year a bill that would repeal the California sodomy laws. Idaho Senator Frank Church, who is also running in California, has also made a supportive statement on gay rights.



Rosalynn Carter, (right), wife of Democratic presidential contender Jimmy Carter, chats with MCC founder Troy Perry (center) and Dr. Newton Deiter (left). Rev. Perry announced his support of Gov. Carter's presidential bid.



news notes

OUTRAGEOUS OHIO

AKRON, OH — A wave of police harassment that included the arrest of a gay activist for "a weak muffler and brake" inspired a demonstration by 40 gays in downtown Akron on Saturday, May 8. The Kent Gay Liberation Front listed and documented nine such incidents of harassment on the week-end of April 30. At the same time 55 men were arrested on charges of "soliciting for prostitution." The names of all 55 men were then listed in the Monday, May 3, edition of the *Akron Beacon Journal*. According to the Cleveland gay monthly *High Gear*, the list included several prominent local businesspeople as well as married men with families.

In a statement prepared by the Kent Gay Liberation Front, Ohio activists stated, "We protest the use of minor statutes against homosexual citizens. We find it deplorable that police officers park outside of homosexual bars, parking lots and issue citations against our brothers and sisters. We find it deplorable that for minor offenses like mufflers, emergency brakes, license plate expirations, etc., that citations to appear in court are issued rather than warnings or simple tickets."

NY BILL DEFEAT

ALBANY, NY — In a May 12 vote, the New York State Assembly overwhelmingly defeated a gay rights package. The vote was 94-35. The bill, sponsored by Manhattan Rep. William Passannante, covered the areas of employment, public accommodation, housing, licensing, and education. It was the seventh time that a gay rights bill has been defeated in the Assembly in as many years. Most previous bills died in committee.

PETRIFIED FOREST

PHOENIX, AZ — The Arizona Supreme Court has upheld that state's sodomy laws, which provide up to twenty years in prison for "crimes against nature." The ruling was filed two weeks before the recent US Supreme Court decision upholding the rights of individual states to regulate private sexual conduct.

In the majority opinion, the Arizona court ruled that "the right to privacy is not unqualified and absolute and must be considered in the light of important state interests. The state may also regulate other sexual misconduct in its rightful concern for the moral welfare of its people."

LESS \$ FOR DAVIS

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles City Council has cut over \$1 million from the budget for the police department's vice squad for 1976-77, in the aftermath of the highly-publicized LAPD slave auction raid. \$5,271,000



L.A. Chief Ed Davis

had originally been the proposed vice squad budget. 47 positions within the 240-person department, including 22 in administrative vice, will be removed in view of the budget cut, reports *NewsWest*.

Despite the budget cuts, however, Los Angeles police chief Ed Davis announced on May 20 that his department would begin increasing its enforcement activities at the city's gay bars. "If anything," said Davis, "we have been too easy on homosexual bars."

MOB MOVES IN

ATLANTA — *The Advocate* reports that Florida and Georgia police fear a "bloodbath" may be the result of an effort by organized crime to take over gay bars and discos in the South. According to police sources, three men have already been killed in "execution-style killings" in Atlanta, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale. One of the dead men is reported to have owned "Mother's Place," a popular gay nightclub in Atlanta which the mob was attempting to take over.

"We have received information that there may be an attempt underway by organized crime to take over gay bars in the area," a police source told *The Advocate*. "People have told us that there will be a lot of bloodshed in this area."

Cambridge Caucus Forms

CAMBRIDGE, MA — A new group aimed at lobbying for the political concerns of Cambridge gay people has been formed. Calling itself the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, this group is the result of more than two years of organizing activity in Cambridge, and includes persons from such organizations as North Cambridge Gays, Cambridgeport Gays, Cambridge Gay Neighbors, and the Cambridge Homintern. Members of these and other informal social groups in Cambridge have come together in this election year to help Cambridge's large gay population play an active role in the selection of various officials, and in other political and civil rights concerns.

This year two particularly relevant Cambridge elections will take place: one for the State House seat currently held by Rep. John J. Toomey, and other for the State Senate seat current-

ly held by Sen. Francis X. McCann. The incumbents and their challengers will be invited to meet with caucus members during the coming months, and the group will support those candidates which it thinks are most responsive to the political and civil rights needs of Cambridge gay people. The caucus will also be interested in improving relations between Cambridge gays and the rest of the Cambridge community.

So far approximately fifty people have been involved in discussions about the caucus' purpose, goals, and structure. Policies are still being formulated, and the caucus welcomes participation from all Cambridge gays. Interested persons can contact a member of the caucus at (617) 492-3433, or can write to: The Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, P.O. Box 218, Cambridge, MA 02141.

CMTE. TO RE-ELECT

BOSTON — The headquarters of Rep. Elaine Noble's re-election committee is in the process of preparation in Boston. The headquarters will be located on third floor of 475 Commonwealth Avenue, above the clock shop. Although no date has yet been set for the official opening of the headquarters, the Noble re-election committee is enthusiastically seeking loans of desks, chairs, and file cabinets for the duration of the campaign. Anyone interested in lending furniture, helping clean up the office, or working on Rep. Noble's campaign should call 261-8264 or 727-2584.



SEVEN SEAS

MONTEREY, CA — While refusing to stop the US Navy from discharging Navy Meteorologist Dennis R. Beller because it discovered his homosexuality, US District Judge George Harris has recommended that the Navy reconsider its policies regarding homosexuals.

"The Navy does itself and the public little good by removing an excellent and experienced and able serviceman such as Beller from its ranks, and it should seriously consider what interest is furthered by its decision to do so," said Judge Harris in a quote from the *Chicago Gay Life* report of the incident. Beller has been in the Navy 15 years.

NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

NEW YORK — The National Coalition of Gay Activists (NCGA) has released its program of events for the Democratic National Convention, which will be held in New York City July 12-16. The group is protesting the Democratic Party's inactivity on gay issues. The listed events, with the exception of the Sunday demonstration, were organized by NCGA. The events planned thus far are:

Sunday, July 11 — 1 p.m. — Demonstration and rally beginning at Washington Square Park and marching to Madison Square Garden, site of the convention. Organized by the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations.

Monday, July 12 — Picketing at key delegate hotels throughout the day.

Tuesday, July 13 — Afternoon — Demonstration at offices of the Democratic National Committee. Demonstration to be titled: "A Protest Against Expediency."

Tuesday — 8:30 p.m. — Assemble at 5th Avenue and 70th Street for a candlelight march to protest the Democratic Party's "collusion with the church and disregard for the principle of separation of church and state."

Wednesday, July 14 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Celebration of Gay Love, Page 2 • GCN, June 12, 1976

TEXAS TROUBLE

SAN ANTONIO, TX — Controversy involving the allocation of federal funds to the Forward Foundation, a local minority rights group, for a conference to foster gay-non-gay understanding resulted in bomb threats forcing the conference to move from its original site; pickets; and disparaging news stories in the public media of the area. In addition, a published resolution from the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, 280 miles away, blasted the use of "\$50,000" in Federal money to "promote immorality." In fact, \$5,000 had been allocated.

Despite the hassle, the conference did meet May 1, attracting over 400 participants to a former converted school. Speakers included Del Martin, Elaine Noble, and Karen DeCrow. Pickets included a nun with a "Stop ERA" button pinned to her habit and a Baptist pastor running for the state legislature on the American Party ticket. There was no violence, but when the pickets sat down in violation of a municipal ordinance, the conference people called the police to disperse them.

DOUG WILSON

SASKATCHEWAN — The Court of Queen's Bench of this Canadian city has ruled that the term "sex," as used in the Saskatchewan Human Rights Act, does not include or cover sexual orientation, according to a report in Toronto's *Body Politic*. This decision was made in the case of Doug Wilson, a gay practice teacher who was barred from his job. Wilson's case will not be carried to higher courts.

Instead, the Committee to Defend Doug Wilson announces that it will remain in existence and, under a changed name and format, press for changes in the Human Rights Act itself so that gay people will be protected by law.

Foley Square — Center Street and Lafayette Street, near City Hall.

Wednesday — 8:30 p.m. — Protest against "Homophobic Presidential Hopefuls," to be held at Madison Square Garden.

Both NCGA and the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations are negotiating with the police for the permits needed for the events. The groups have been told that they, along with other protest groups, cannot enter the "frozen zone" around Madison Square Garden. This zone extends from 31st to 33rd Streets and along 7th and 8th Avenues. For more information regarding the events, write or call NCGA at:

P.O. Box A-711
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10017
(212) 691-3625

All contributions are welcomed.

The Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee (CSLD) has decided not to hold a street fair on Saturday, June 26. This leaves one street fair to be held on Sunday, June 27. The fair, organized by a subcommittee of the "rump" or "bar-oriented" former CSLD committee, will be held from 2 p.m. to midnight on Christopher Street between Hudson and West Streets.

'Unity' Theme of Boston Gay Pride Week

By Michael Bumblebee

BOSTON — As was announced in GCN two weeks ago, Gay Pride Week this year will take place from June 18 through the 27th. The main event of the week will be a Gay Parade on June 19, which will march from Copley Square (people should meet at the square at 11:30 a.m.) to the Boston Common. The theme for the Parade is "Gay Unity Is Gay Strength," and contingents which have registered with the Gay Pride Committee so far include the lesbian contingent (which will lead off the Parade); Gay People Against Racism; and the Fort Hill Faggots for Freedom. Groups who plan to be present in the parade are urged to contact Joey Abreu at 354-2079.

As a result of the article in GCN which announced that lesbians would lead the parade this year, a number of gay men have raised questions about why this decision was made. The planning committee has felt that gay men should not feel alienated by this decision, but rather should stand behind the lesbian community in an effort to make a unified stand. It was pointed out at a planning meeting that the "straight" media across the country use Gay Pride parades to sensationalize their stereotypes of homosexuals, and that this is often done by focusing on the gay men who appear the most "outrageous." As one planning committee member put it, "I am firmly committed to being outrageous but it is about time that middle-class America began to realize

there are gay women as well as gay men, and that the gay movement as a whole acknowledges the needs and rights of lesbians." Thus the gay pride committee felt unanimously that a lesbian contingent should lead the parade this year to help change the image which the media have created of the gay movement.

A group of "marshals" is being organized to ensure that the parade goes smoothly — anyone interested in helping is encouraged to attend a Marshals' Training Session at 355 Ell Student Center, Northeastern University, on Sunday, June 13, from 7 to 10 p.m.

At the Common, a huge gay rally and picnic is planned. Speakers at the rally are scheduled to include Jill Raymond, grand jury resister who recently was released after a year in a Kentucky jail; Ken Dudley, Boston poet and Project Lambda advocate; Paul Tellalian, expressive therapist; and others. Music will be provided and everyone should bring refreshments to share.

The kickoff dance for Gay Pride Week will be held on Friday, June 18, at Boston University — music by "Liberty Standing." On Saturday, June 19, there will be a Women's Dance with "Liberty Standing" held at Boston University; and also a Gay Dance at M.I.T.

Beginning on Sunday, June 20, a very full week of workshops is planned. Sunday will start the week off with workshops of Third World gay

people and a workshop on "Racism." On Monday night there will be a workshop on "Gay People, Therapy, and Social Change." Tuesday is the scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall for an open Gay Community Forum. In efforts to contact City Council people, we have found that all of them seem to have prior engagements for that evening (although R.O.A.R. seems to have no problem in scheduling *their* meetings in these Chambers). However, the planning committee is determined to make its presence known at City Hall that night, and negotiations are continuing.

Wednesday night will be a time for women and men to come together to discuss "Sexism in the Gay Movement." Thursday night will be a series of women's workshops beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Covenant at 67 Newbury Street in Boston. For Friday night, neighborhood meetings are being organized in as many New England local neighborhoods as possible. This is a chance to get to know other gay people who live nearby and to continue to develop networks of love and support. Other workshops to be scheduled during this week are: "Gay Collective Living by the Fort Hill Faggots," "Gay Liberation and Radical Politics," and "Images in the Media and Advertising."

Gay Pride Week in Boston will conclude with a picnic on Saturday, June 26, at the Bandshell on the Esplanade — beginning at 1:00. Food is pot-luck and entertainment will be

everywhere.

Sunday, June 27, is Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day in New York, and the Boston committee has chartered two buses (at least) for those wanting to parade from one end of Manhattan to the other. The route is now settled upon in New York, and people will gather at Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village (near the "Stone wall" where gay women and men fought back against police harassment in 1969 — out of which grew the Gay Liberation Movement) and march to Central Park. Tickets to New York are only \$12 roundtrip and must be bought in advance.

Child care will be provided for *all* of the events of Gay Pride Week. If you will need child care *or* are willing to spend some time (just an hour or two) helping take care of children, please contact Gregg Howe at 445-6676.

The organizing for Gay Pride Week has been going well, but more people need to be involved for it to be a real success. A poster for the week's activities is now printed and can be picked up for distribution (on bulletin boards, walls, schools, factories, offices, T-rooms, etc.) at: GCN, the Gay Men's Center, New Words Bookstore, and Red Book Store. Lesbian organizing meetings are held every Monday and general Gay Pride Week meetings are every Tuesday, at 7 p.m. at Charles Street Meeting House. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings to help organize Gay Pride Week events.

'Together' Opening Stirs Crowds, Speculation

BOSTON — This city's newest gay bar, "Together," opened last Wednesday evening to a large and diverse crowd at the site of the old Sugar Shack at 110 Boylston Street in downtown Boston. The bar, which will be for both women and men, features a large dance floor, disco music, lots of seating accommodations, and a light show. In addition to the main room, "Together" includes a smaller room equipped with bar, pinball machines, and pool tables.

"Together" plans Sunday brunches with free food and inexpensive drinks, continuous classic flicks and cartoon shows, free reservations and travel services as well as theatre and concert

tickets. Special Sylvia Sydney concert revues will be held on Monday nights at 9:30.

The new bar resembles The Other Side in both decor and atmosphere: the light system appears to be modeled after that of the Bay Village bar. Gary Dotterman, former manager of The Other Side, will be the manager of "Together" and much of The Other Side staff is in evidence at the new bar. "I promised the people who worked for me at The Other Side that after they got laid off, I'd try to get them other jobs. That's exactly what I've done," Dotterman said. The popular Other Side waitress, Tex, is now working at "Together."

Dotterman denied reports that The Other Side had, in all effect, simply moved to the old Sugar Shack. "This bar is owned by Rudy Gurino," Dotterman told GCN. And Frank DiMento, lawyer for Henry and Carmine Vara, who own The Other Side, professed no knowledge whatsoever of "Together" when recently contacted by GCN.

Rep. Barney Frank, who has been a strong opponent of Jacques and The Other Side, told GCN that "If in fact The Other Side has now moved to

Boylston Street it might be a good solution [to the Bay Village situation]. It looks to me like a triple play — The Other Side seemed to move to Together and the Sugar Shack will now move into Flicks."

Despite wide interest in who may or may not own the new bar, Gary Dotterman, "Together" manager, is optimistic about the bar. "Everybody has really busted ass for five days and nights to make a go of this club," Dotterman asserted.

Prom Date Furor

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrators demanded an end to the harassment of lesbians at Girl's High and also a woman's right to choose her own sexuality. They also wanted Girl's High to include pro-lesbian material in the library, and in the school curriculum. Students reacted, according to Day, "with a wide range of feeling."

Hostile reactions came from seniors who felt the lesbian demonstrators "were ruining their senior year" or "giving their school a bad name," and from Central High School boys who, at one point, chanted "freaks go home."

However, by the end of the day, the support greatly outweighed the negative reactions. A confrontation between antigay students and demonstrators occurred around 3 p.m. over a bullhorn. Various gripes of students against DYKETACTICS were aired with the result, according to Sherrie Cohen, that "the most vocal attackers became supporters." In fact some students even agreed to circulate a petition listing the DYKETACTICS' demands, such as an end to harassment of lesbians and pro-lesbian resource material in the school library.

The administration has conceded that it will consider recommendations and suggestions by lesbian alumni on how to improve the curriculum and the library resources.

Victoria Brownworth, it has been discovered, is not an alumni of Girl's High; she is an ex-student. Cohen says that Brownworth was expelled from Girl's High for activities involving her lesbianism.

DYKETACTICS spokespeople believe that the effects of the demonstration have been beneficial. Sherrie Cohen told GCN, "Ultimately, it was a tremendous move, especially for the lesbian/feminist community." Cohen said that the 1500 flyers, distributed at the demonstration, contained a short bibliography of feminist and lesbian books, organizations and media; she was also pleased that the demonstration was the main topic of discussion in health classes that afternoon. "We provided viable role models for these women," she admitted.

Katherine Day also felt the overall effects of the demonstration were positive. "Some students got to see what lesbians really look like . . . (we) created a positive image of lesbians . . ."



Opening night at the new Boston bar, "Together." Tex, long-time waitress at The Other Side, stops to chat with GCN business manager Joe Leo (third from right) and friend as well as GCN Managing Editor Lyn Rosen (second from right) and Nancy Ryan (right).

Photo by Don C. Hanover III



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A Gay Person's Guide To New England



"It's the best."
—Michael's Thing

The 1976 edition, "A Gay Person's Guide to New England." Available at \$3.75 from finer bookstores, gay bars, baths and organizations throughout New England and the World. By mail, \$4.00 postpaid from GPG, Dept. D3, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108. Copies sent in plain brown envelope. Make cheque payable to "GCN."

SPEAKING OUT!

By Steven Woodward

Your coverage of political, cultural and general movement-oriented events in New York, as provided mainly by correspondent Tony Russo, is adequate — and these are of course the most important and newsworthy events. However, your gay news coverage would be more all-inclusive, well-balanced and of greater interest and service to your New York area readers if Mr. Russo would also report on *social events* and *human interest stories*. I know that, like a few other hard-line movement "purists," he probably feels that such coverage is beneath him. But the fact is that all of us — no matter how politically interested and active we are — also have social lives which are an important part of our existence. And if a Gay Community newspaper refuses to provide coverage of our social news, where shall we turn for it?

Here is a sample of what I mean by social news reporting which should be included in Mr. Russo's column, but to date has been conspicuously absent:

"The addition of two new gay bars in Manhattan in recent months [swelling the ranks of the scores of bars which already existed here] has created more than the usual ripple of excitement that accompanies any grand opening — because these two bars typify a growing trend away from the old pattern of gay bars owned by exploitative heterosexual businessmen [who sometimes, it is rumored, have organized crime connections.] and toward the concept of gay bars owned by gay people who have been associated with or influenced by the movement and whose avowed goal is to provide a pleasant social gathering place for liberated gays.

"The opening of the first of these two bars, Uncle Paul's on Christopher Street, was also significant because it took place despite the opposition of the pastor of the neighborhood Roman Catholic parish. The priest, Father O'Leary, had written to the State Liquor Authority protesting that the "daytime clientele" from the large and growing number of gay bars on Christopher Street — many of which, like Uncle Paul's, open at noon — might have an adverse effect on the children in his parochial school, which is also on Christopher Street. "Uncle Paul" McGuire, 26, a former popular and well-known member of the Gay Activists Alliance, and one-time GAA attorney Harold M. Weiner won a unanimous victory in the state's highest court, which decreed late in 1975 that the opposition of the priest was not a valid basis to deny a liquor license to Uncle Paul's. And so after a year-long legal battle, Uncle Paul's [which boasts that it is 'the longest bar on Christopher Street' and is, in the opinion of many observers, one of the friendliest as well] is now in business. Besides being a popular watering hole and cruising place, the bar served several weeks ago as literature distribution point for gay men working in the successful primary election campaign of lesbian activist Jean O'Leary.

Other stories which Mr. Russo might cover include the formation of a Gay Businessmen's Chamber of Commerce by Eagle's Nest manager Jack Modica and others, and the spreading success of fund-raising of weekly fund-raising events for gay liberation organizations in gay bars. These began with the Eagle's Nest's Sunday evening "Nestea" dances on behalf of the National Gay Task Force — which now reportedly provide roughly half of NGTF's operating income — and have spread to the Spike, which runs fund-raisers for the Mattachine Society each week (thus saving that organization's New York chapter from bankruptcy) and to Experiment 4, whose beneficiary is the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

As I said, Mr. Russo may consider "bar" a dirty word, but the fact is that various bar openings, closings and special events are in fact very big news to thousands of members of the gay community — including many, like himself, who consider themselves activists in the movement. These events, along with gay boatrides and other similar social occurrences, deserve a place in your newspaper.

Finally, I might suggest that when Mr. Russo's column includes a report on a prominent person in the movement, such as his recent account of the release of a gay liberation record ("Come Out, Come Out," by Nick Curto and the New Freedom Singers), it would be appropriate to include a picture of the celebrity in question — Mr. Curto, in this case. This would make your coverage more lively and more complete.



don't rain . . .

Dear Readers:

David Thorstad really has little quarrel with GCN (letters 5/22) and its coverage of the New York City CSLD split since all of the "reporting" was favorable (though false) to his interests until the May 8 GCN. The CSLD Inc. was subjected to insidious, vicious misrepresentation by several writers who supported the political takeover of the original and legitimate CSLD Committee on March first. Thorstad's hypocritical, propagandistic letter proceeds, predictably, in a similar vein. For example, a belligerent Tony Dolce (GAA member) attended a CSLD Inc. meeting ostensibly as a mediator and proceeded to attack the membership, calling them "sick" and "crazy" (Thorstad's idea of conciliation?). I responded at one point by referring to the Nazi Stormtrooper tactics of the people whom he represented and who overran the original CSLD committee. Why would I call him a Nazi, fascist or communist when he once told me he was a socialist? While it is true that the Owles-Manford committee is dominated by Democrats and everything to the left of that category (which is not meant as criticism), being politically "independent," I am resentful of labels and use them carefully.

Thorstad cries bitterly that his role in the rape of the original CSLD committee was unrecognized and sanctimoniously calls it "reclaiming." His comments further imply that anyone who is not in support of the Owles-Manford committee is not part of the gay movement. How's that for arrogance?

What the Thorstads, Owles, Manfords and others habitually forget or overlook is the diversity of the gay community in which political activism is even more suspect than national politics. The 1973 Gay Pride rally-entertainment (the first) proved by the large turnout, that there are vast numbers of gay people who will participate and be politicized if leaden political rhetoric and posturing are avoided. The objective is to reach out to people in ways to which they will respond.

In spite of the political savagery and machinations, I plan to march on June 27. I have not lost sight of the goal.

In the spirit of Stonewall,

Rudy Grillo
Member, Board of Directors
CSLD Inc.

criticism

Dear Editor:

If the idea of the centerfold article "Lovers & Other Fantasies" was a semi-tongue-tied-in-cheek approach to the subject, I can find it mildly amusing. But if the article was written in all earnestness, I find a number of its parts objectionable.

Placing on the article an ambiguous title that can be taken to mean that the idea of a lover is a fantasy in itself, is objectionable whether the article states so or not. My mate (we prefer that term since the word lover, as Don McGaw began to get into in his section on lover relationships, means so many things to so many people) to me is not a fantasy. He is a vital part of my time, my experiences, my love. He is a definitive need in my life, a reason for care and concern I show to him that I can show to no other person to the same extent at the same time. Not a fantasy.

Secondly, editorializing in the middle of the article (WOW!) is definitely out of place.

Finally, the questionnaire "Certified Lover Handy Order Form" does take the article's purpose back to the Humorous (?) category. If you have a lover/mate, how can you expect to change him or her to be something s/he may not be (i.e., athletic, beautiful, intelligent, sensuous)? This would seem to indicate a dissatisfaction with a current lover, a need to distort and change the person whom one supposedly "loves," and a false relationship, one not built on McGaw's "commitment," but on Liza Crawford's "Procustean bed" statement.

Let's hope the remaining articles in this series are more serious attempts in establishing the ideas and the ideals in this most dear of human endeavors, a personal love relationship with another human being.

Sincerely,

Ken Westhassel

In all earnestness, I'm mildly pleased you're mildly amused. But I'd like to answer your points anyway: 1) The title "Lovers and Other Fantasies" was the Editor's choice. My titles were "Lover Fantasies" (for the series) and "Is Your Love Life A Dry Hump?" (for this article). Lover fantasies are fantasies about lovers. In no way does this imply that lovers are fantasies. 2) "Lover" may mean "many things to many people" (your so original phrase), but it means only one thing to me, and I defined it in the article you claim to have read. 3) Editorializing is NOT out of place in a feature article, which this is; though it IS out of place in a news article, which this isn't. 4) Many lovers do expect to change their mates to conform to their wishes. It's one of the commonest lover fantasies. Regardless, I asked the questionnaire respondents to dip into their fantasy lives, not their reality lives (which may or may not include a current lover). 5) I have this fantasy about critics (PANT!) — I think I love you!

J.D. Sittler

TELL ME, JOEY



Dear Joey:

My lover and I would like to go to a lesbian bar occasionally. What would the reaction be to this?

Paul

Paul:

I sauntered on down to the Saints the other night to check this out. I was told by the bartender that "although it's your legal right to be here and legally we have to serve you, you can see we are all women here, and we prefer you to leave."

I suggest either Together or The Elephant Room, where both sexes are welcome.

Joey

GCN will use this space to answer questions for our readers. Mail should be addressed to Tell Me, Joey, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

... on my parade

Dear Editor:

I have always liked and enjoyed the columns of A. Nolder Gay, being of the opinion they possess both wit and insight, but must take exception to the May 29, 1976 column wherein he in effect dishes the annual march to be held in New York the last Sunday in June as well as the action at the Democratic national convention.

The movement as Marty Robinson, founder of the New York Gay Activist Alliance, says is struggle, and it is unfortunate if at the first sign of adversity some like your columnist are ready to throw in the towel.

The march this year is particularly important with the demise of the only national gay newspaper, the Supreme Court decision, and this being a national election year.

On the last Sunday in June, we will march in New York rain or shine, regardless of infighting, and David Goodstein notwithstanding. Now more than ever the support of all is important. See you there.

Cordially,
Walter J. Phillips

GCN welcomes letters expressing the views of its readers. All letters submitted for publication must contain the name and address of the writer. A phone number will speed verification. While names will be withheld upon request, no anonymous letters will be considered.

LETTERS



white elephant

Dear GCN:

Last Saturday, my friend Stan and I went to the Elephant Room to dance. We got there at 10 p.m. and stayed until 11:15 p.m. We left because we were two of the four people on the dance floor at any given time. We then went to 1270. There we were up to our elbows in dancing, drinking and cavorting gays.

Why isn't Elephant Room being used? Beats me. There were enough people at 1270 to fill both bars more comfortably. The MBTA drops you at Elephant Room's door. They'll even call you a cab when you're ready to move on. I will admit that 1270 is closer to the Fenway's bushes, but really.

Well, I just feel that gay people in Boston will lose a good place if they don't redistribute their weight. There is room for both bars in Boston, and it is nice to pick and choose for a change. If we can't change our habits, we can't expect alternatives to last.

Paul Creeden

P.S. This is my opinion, not an advertisement —P.C.

no interest

To the Gay Community of Boston:

Thanks a lot for loaning Elaine Noble to San Francisco last month. I'm sure she's so busy working for gays and the working class in Boston that it was a real ordeal when she spent her time on the West Coast campaigning against our own gay candidate for the state legislature in favor of the Machine-backed hack who's being supported by millionaire-publisher-horse-breeder David Goodstein and his gaggle of Uncle Tom gay politicians.

Harvey Milk, a community-oriented, up-front gay man, who gathered more votes than any uncloseted gay person in American political history — including Ms. Noble — in a recent local race, nearly knocking out an entrenched incumbent, is in a neck-and-neck campaign which Ms. Noble showed not the slightest inkling of understanding. Lack of understanding notwithstanding, she endorsed the rich machine candidate without even attempting to meet the working class gay candidate. This, no doubt, guarantees Ms. Noble valuable support from Goodstein's right wing of the gay movement. It also helps these people in the ambition to further muddy the campaign issues for gay people who are being told by self-proclaimed gay "leaders" — the Machine's house gays — that Milk's liberal opponent will be able to do more for gay rights than one of our own. It's incredible and disgusting that Noble could support this bullshit line — and support it without even trying to find out the facts about a highly popular gay candidate. The San Francisco delegation to the California State Legislature is full of nothing but liberal "friends" of the gay community and the distance they're willing to push our causes is pathetic. Only a fool has to be told what it means to gay women and men all over the country when an intelligent, articulate, up-front gay person like Harvey Milk gets elected to public office.

Perhaps Elaine Noble enjoys too much the role of being America's only gay elected official. But whatever the reason for her treachery to the gay cause, why don't you keep her in Boston where she belongs and let San Francisco figure out for itself whether we want our own gay officials or not.

Sincerely,

Howard Klein

parasites

To the Editors:

The Gay-Feminist coalition is in real trouble. It is not merely the *Advocate's* split into the masculinist camp or the fact that most gay men's magazines are ignoring the feminist issue. The percentage of gay men behind the feminist movement is very likely dropping, not rising. In gay men's bars, it is treated as if it were a joke.

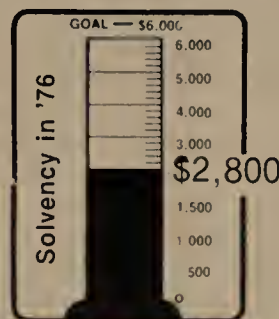
Has the gay male population thanked us for our work on the repeal of their sodomy laws? Have they contributed anything significant to the feminist movement? Their macho male-bonding trip still isn't over, and male-bonding is female exclusive. Gay men are still on the straight male separatist trip.

I feel gay men should be told they are out of order, that they willingly accept feminist hegemony when they want lobbying down at the legislature but aren't willing to put in their share of work when women need support. This is typical macho BS trip like having secretaries around, such as myself, to do all the hard work and paying only a quarter as much.

Men can't stick together and join the human race at the same time.

Jeptha Lewis

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The above thermometer will weekly show GCN's progress towards solvency in 1976. The main source of additional income will be generated by a series of benefits. You can contribute simply by attending. If you are unable to attend or wish to make a larger donation we are also encouraging people to send contributions to:

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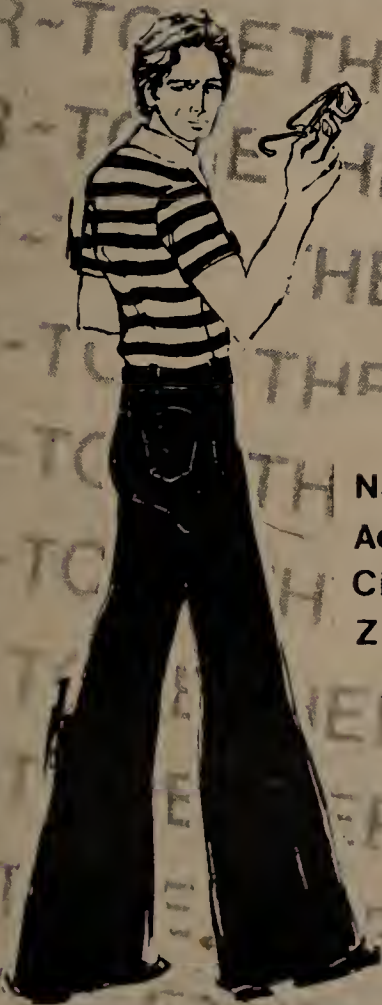
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We'd like to tell you a few of the ideas that we have, and then we'd like you to get together with us to promote your ideas. Within the next couple of weeks, we're planning: the "Stage Door" eatin', drinkin', and game room (open from noon 'til 2 am); the "Playpen" living room; the "Gay Pretenders" live disco show; the Atlanta Underground Brunch (free food, cheap drinks); the Cape, the North Shore, Rocky Point Amusement Park; free reservation and travel service, along with theatre and concert tickets; and the special Sylvia Sydney Concert Revue, Monday nights at 9:30 pm.

In addition to all of this, we want you to have a special card which will entitle you to get together with us for all kinds of savings, not just when we're together, but at other places in other cities, and at hundreds of cooperating businesses, shops, hotels and restaurants. This card is free for an application and I.D. Until you get yours, we are honoring cards from The Other Side, 15 Lansdowne, and Sugardaddy's. You can benefit immediately with free admission on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (all other nights, just \$1.00).
Now we hope you understand what getting together means to us. We know we'll enjoy getting together with you, we hope you'll get together with us often!

Boston Herald American

NewTimes

Boston's gay community is trying to get a city councillor to sponsor its June 22 use of the council chamber for a national Gay Pride Week forum.

So far the nine councillors have ignored a request from the Gay Pride Week coordinating committee more than a week ago.

'I don't know whether we are getting the run-around or not,' said Gregory J. Hanifan, 30, a committee representative, 'but we are going to find out.'

Hanifan said he will be at City Hall today to ask each councillor to sponsor the gay forum.

'We have had nothing encouraging the individual councillors,' Hanifan continued, 'and we are a developing political force, with 30 groups in the city.'

'We have our own representative in the State House [Rep. Elaine Noble, D-Boston], and national and state candidates have come out in favor of gay rights.'

Hanifan said: 'We want the council chamber not because other community groups use it, but because it is the focal point of the city and we are a legitimate group.'

'I know final approval rests with Mrs. Hicks [City Council President Louise Day Hicks]. Her aide told us she would approve the request if we could get someone to sponsor us . . . but we haven't had an answer to our

letter and it was written a week and a half ago.'

Gay Pride Week in Boston will include a downtown parade, dances and workshops.

The City Hall forum would take place from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on June 22, a Tuesday.

Topics would center on problems of gay persons in the community, Hanifan said, subjects such as discrimination in housing, employment and other forms of social discrimination.

There will also be discussions on the problems of lesbians, Third World gays and gay people in the media, said Hanifan. He is property manager for a gay collective in Roxbury's Fort Hill section.

Use of the council chamber by pro and anti-busing groups has been a source of recent controversy, however, Mrs. Hicks and other councillors have explained the chamber is open to 3 responsible community groups with a council sponsor.

Councillor Albert L. O'Neil said yesterday he would not be able to sponsor the gay pride forum because of a scheduling conflict.

'The one who sponsors the group has to be there for the meeting, and I'm giving a speech that night,' said O'Neil.

— from an article in the June 3, 1976 issue of the *Boston Herald American*.

'The notion that Jerry Brown [Governor of California and candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination] might be something other than heterosexual has fascinated people as much, if not more than, his performance in office. But the truth of the matter seems to be that Jerry Brown is that typical, repressed heterosexual Catholic male who is attracted to women but not very comfortable with them . . .

'The rumor that Brown is gay — a stubbornly persistent one — was apparently planted by his opponents during his gubernatorial campaign. According to people in his campaign, a packet containing some supposedly incriminating evidence was sent to five newspapers. One of Brown's campaign managers heard about it and claims that his father, a longtime friend of one of the publishers, was able to establish that the packet had been sent by the Republican Party. The packet contained only one hard fact. In 1963 a civil rights worker had been arrested in Mississippi on charges of having sexual relations with a 15-year-old boy — a rather typical attack on civil rights leaders at that time. Brown's sole connection with the matter was that he and a friend from Yale were touring

the South at that time to check out the civil rights movement and they had stayed at the house at the time the incident presumably occurred. The house, owned by the activist's mother, was used by many out-of-town supporters of the movement. There was no connection to Brown, but because his father was the governor of California, Jerry's name found its way into the court record, which was duplicated and sent out in that mysterious press packet.

'During the gubernatorial campaign, two other attempts were made to label Brown a homosexual. Some dissident members of the Los Angeles Police Department, angry with their association's endorsement of Brown, sent word to informers in the gay community that they would pay a reward to anyone who could entrap Brown. Quinn [Brown advisor] got word of it through a friend of his in LAPD, the chief was alerted and the scheme scotched. Later on, the Sacramento Police Department notified Brown's staff that one of their informants had been approached with a similar offer.' — from Robert Scheer's "Demystifying Jerry Brown," which appeared in the May 28 issue of *New Times* magazine.

The Harvard Crimson

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Interviewer: "The alternative press tends to treat issues that the mass media largely ignores . . ."

Walter Cronkite: " . . . the interesting thing with the networks is, of course, that we keep forgetting: this is the first time we've ever had a truly national press . . . we are in the position here in 24 minutes of covering the world. We can't keep our focus on these things, like gay rights, even though we may be interested in them. I think it's something that should be exposed, that we should be talking about . . . once every

ten months we get a piece on, that some development is prominent enough for us to give it attention. But we can't keep on after that thing."

— from an interview with CBS-TV anchorperson Walter Cronkite, which appeared in the May 24 issue of the *Harvard Crimson*.



Look Away, Look Away In the nine years since her smash ballad, *Ode to Billy Joe*, Bobbie Gentry has resolutely kept to herself the reasons why Billy Joe McAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge. Soon, though, a Max Baer film elaboration of Gentry's song — and an accompanying paperback version by scenarist Herman (Summer of '42) Raucher — will explain all. Seems that shortly before he leapt on the 3rd of June, Billy Joe had his first sexual encounter — with a good ole boy."

— from the "Chatter" column in the June 7 issue of *People*.

NewTimes

"Carter [Democratic presidential front-runner Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia], one aide laughed earlier, 'got away with saying the strangest things.' He supported the Supreme Court decision that the states could outlaw homosexual acts because 'fornication is a sin and Carter said he assumes that also means between men.' Did he believe every 'sin' should be a crime? No, but as president, 'he'll preach personal morality. He thinks a basic problem in America is permissiveness."

— from an article by ex-Carter speechwriter Robert Shrum called "No Private Smiles, A Disquieting Inside Look at the Carter Campaign," in the most recent edition of *New Times*.

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Photo by Don Hanover III

Marchers Seek Mental Patients' Rights

By Neil Miller

BOSTON — The "right to our own sexual life while in the hospital and the right to our sexual preference" were among the interim demands made by a group of 60 demonstrators at an angry and dramatic confrontation at Massachusetts Mental Health Hospital



Demonstrator for Mental Patients' Liberation. Photo by Ken Rabb

in Roxbury last Sunday. Chanting slogans like "2-4-6-8, smash the Therapeutic State," and "1-2-3-4, we won't take your drugs anymore," the protesters, largely former inmates of state

and private mental hospitals, marched in the support of the mental patients' "right to refuse treatment" suit, now in federal court. The demonstration itself was part of the fourth annual North American Conference on Human Rights and Psychiatric Oppression held at Tufts University, May 28-31, and sponsored by Mental Patients Liberation Front.

The march, which began in an enthusiastic and high-spirited mood, moved down Brookline Avenue to Harvard Medical Center and Children's Hospital. Demonstrators carried signs reading "Therapy Is Social Control," "End Shock Treatments," and "I am the Expert of My Own Head." However, as it was a Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, and most hospital staff were absent, the marchers' challenge largely fell on deaf ears.

However, once the group arrived at Mass. Mental, the exuberance changed quickly to bitterness. Demonstrators sat down in the street in front of the institution while one doctor in charge, tense, head bowed, listened to a reading of the demonstrators' 21 interim demands. The demands, which remained "interim" until "the total abolition of psychiatric institutions," included "the right to be informed in clear language of the effects of any 'treatment'" and the "right to refuse any 'treatment'." In addition, the marchers demanded an end to psychiatric record-keeping, the right of a



Mass. Mental Hospital psychiatrist receives demands from demonstrators asking for fair treatment for mental hospital inmates. Photo by Neil Miller

patient to have a lawyer present during psychiatric interviews, the right of patients to be paid minimum wage for work assignments while in the hospital, and an end to behavior modification techniques. The demands also called for a role for inmates in "the decision-making at all levels of the institution."

After the demands were read, patients, gazing out of windows, called to the demonstrators. One woman, who had been in seclusion for five days, said that she was not being allowed to

go to the bathroom. She asked the demonstrators to call her nearest relative, whom she claimed she had not been allowed to contact. Another woman asked the demonstrators for legal advice. However, it appeared that some patients who had wanted to talk were removed from the windows.

"This year they allowed the patients to come to the windows. When we demonstrated last year, they wouldn't even let them do that," one Mental Patient Liberation activist said.

Northeastern Univ. Gays Challenge ROTC Bias

BOSTON — The Gay Student Organization of Northeastern University will bring the campus Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program up on charges of anti-gay discrimination before the Faculty Senate.

The move is in response to a letter to the gay students from ROTC instructor John Peters, stating that he would recommend the expulsion of known homosexuals from the program, in accordance with Army regulations.

ROTC at Northeastern is a full department of the University, going by the name of Military Science Department. Its instructors have the title of "Professor" and students can receive credit for ROTC activities.

GSO members and many faculty people as well believe that ROTC should also be under the same rules of academic ethics as other departments, and will be testing this by offering the Faculty Senate a resolution censuring the ROTC program for discrimination.

In the next few weeks GSO members will draft a resolution condemning ROTC and seeking out the support of other campus groups and prominent faculty members. The resolution cannot be voted on until the fall, when the Senate resumes activities.

It is not certain yet what powers the Senate has over the ROTC program.

The Senate has adopted without debate a resolution against discrimina-

tion on the basis of sexual orientation in faculty tenure considerations, and GSO members hope to have that stand extended to all facets of academic life.

Even during the height of the anti-war movement in the 1960s the Northeastern ROTC program stayed on campus despite student opposition. Because of the strength of ROTC on campus, the GSO is not attempting to have it done away with.

"If we simply called for ROTC to be kicked off campus," GSO member Ken Withers said, "then the whole

focus of the debate would shift from the democratic rights of gay people on campus to some notion of a democratic right of the military to be on campus.

"The whole question of gay rights would be buried in the shuffle. I personally think that the issue of military being on campus is an important one that should be debated and voted on by all the students," he said, adding "the whole idea of this action is to have non-discrimination against gay people included in the code of academic ethics for the whole

campus. ROTC happens to be the only department with the gall to state in writing that it would discriminate."

Over the summer the GSO plans to get endorsements from many sectors of the campus and possibly hold a forum on the issue, perhaps even a debate with someone from ROTC.

The GSO will continue to meet throughout the summer during the weekly "activities period" set aside by the campus administration. The exact time and place will be announced in the *Northeastern News* and *GCN*.

Cleanup Dooms Cambridge Cruising

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Endicott Peabody Park, a popular Cambridge cruising area, has fallen victim to a massive effort to clean up the Charles River. Two sections of the river embankment, along Memorial Drive near Harvard Square in Cambridge, have been fenced off for construction of "Section 2 of the North Charles River Relief Sewer."

According to Dave Kearney, spokesperson for the engineering department of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the purpose of the construction is to eliminate overflow of Cambridge's storm and sanitary sewers into the Charles. Kearney stated that work in the fenced-off area between the Weeks footbridge and the Harvard

Boathouse is scheduled for completion by autumn, at which time it will be re-sodded and the fence will be taken down.

The fate of the triangular patch of ground running from the Anderson Bridge upstream (the area most fre-

quented by cruising gay men) is less certain. This area will be used not only as a construction site, but also for storing material and for parking the construction trailer, so that re-sodding and de-fencing may, according to the MDC, not be completed this fall.



Cruising area frequented by Cambridge gay men falls victim to Charles River Pollution Project. In the background is the Charles River. Photo by Ray Spears

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Alexander von Humboldt: The Fabulous Odyssey



Humboldt as a young man. Charcoal drawing by Daniel Caffé

By Richard Dey, IHI

Homosexuals have been so gagged to the arts that we sometimes forget that the success they have had in artistic endeavors has not been due to any particular inclination thereto, but rather that the homophilic psyche is tied, in astrological terms, to Uranus, the planet of change. *Search* is our style.

We forget, sometimes, that many great scientists were gay . . . and that it was gay people who started it all rolling in the first place: the homophilic Ionian Greeks who created and developed rational thought — without which no science would exist.

Since the whole idea of gay scientists is about as novel to the straight public as the idea that there might be a gay football player or a gay grandmother, I shall italicize all the gay people who somehow cropped up in the life of one of the most important gay scientists since *Sir Francis Bacon* (who created, almost single-handedly, the whole modern concept of scientific methodology), *Sir Isaac Newton* (whose ungay 'gravity' was not apocryphal . . . he was a misogynist), or even, perhaps, *Archimedes* (who invented the 'screw' and thus, perhaps, the survival of the species). He also disproves the common misconception that scientists are straight but not butch, shaggy-maned, squint a lot, and can't match their socks or, when they are *not* women, hate women.

Humbolt, as he is called, was in fact *The Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Karl Heinrich Alexander von Humbolt*, born September 14, 1769 (the same year as his future friends and acquaintances Napoleon, Wellington, Canning, *Chateaubriand*, and *Cuvier*). Rich, extraordinarily handsome, and, with his brother Wilhelm, a "gifted child," *Humboldt* passed his childhood at the family castle, Schloss Tegel, near Berlin, one of those places with "endless servants," "encyclopedia guests," and occasionally, *Frederick the Great* (the one who told his soldiers to "stay out of town and find your sex in the barracks"). His education was constructed in line with the popular principles of *Rousseau*, who "single-handedly" repopularized onanism, in France and everywhere he went.

After a stretch at Goettingen — the German university that *isn't* Heidelberg, and greatly known for its advances in the sciences — *Humboldt*, like all gays, set out to see the world (Europe, anyway); he settled down as a Prussian mining official and invented a breathing mask for miners, not improved until Davy improved upon it some years later. He conducted more than 4,000 experiments and brought upon himself the "trials and tribulations" of fame and (more) fortune.

One of his brother Wilhelm's friends was an olympian, cold character

named *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (*tres gai* in his day), the author of *Faust*. Would one believe it? The marble-garbed *Goethe* liked *Alex* right away. The accompanying sketch of *Alexander von Humboldt* about the time they met may help explain why. So *Goethe* introduced him to *Schiller*, perhaps Germany's greatest poet; *Schiller* disliked *Humboldt* immediately; but *Goethe* called *Humboldt* "a true *cornu copiae* of natural science."

Then, suddenly, the first pangs of human heartbreak cracked the Meissen glaze of *Humboldt's* idyllic childhood. He fell in love. Henrietta? Agatha? Perhaps Victoria Elisabet Funken Froggenhorn? or a milkmaid named Gert? No, a young man in the army named *Reinhard von Haefsten*, an officer in a regiment stationed at Bayreuth, where *Ludwig II* later built *Wagner* his festival theatre. *Humboldt* fell in love. Even at the risk of driving us all cross-eyed, love in this case must be italicized because it was gay. The letters which *Humboldt* wrote in praise of *von Haefsten* were later discreetly edited by their recipients (the names of whom I would like to have (!) as they included some of the most famous names of the times, many of whom no doubt belonged to that homophilic coterie from which so much of the Age of Reason was constructed). Whether *Humboldt* ever made it with *von Haefsten* is doubtful: there is too much angst and weltanschmerz and *sturm und drang* from such a happy-go-lucky sort for it to have been merely domestic argument (they lived together for some time).

Wilhelm's wife Caroline once said, "Alexander will never be inspired by anything that does not come through men." Wilhelm explained, "He will hardly ever be happy and never at peace because I can't believe that he will ever form a real [sic] relationship . . . [blah, blah, blah] . . . though . . . a veil hung . . . over our innermost feelings which neither of us dared [sic, sic, sic] lift." Hmmm.

For a "scientist," *Humboldt* was extraordinarily verbal with *von Haefsten*: "my good precious Reinhard," "each day my love and attachment for you increase," "I will vow to die if," "to live a happy life in harmony together," [he was, ironically enough, suggesting they "elope" to, of all places, America!]

His affair with *von Haefsten* going nowhere, *Humboldt* hooked up with notorious Lord Bristol, Bishop of Derry, to join an expedition up (or down) the Nile (it is a gay prerogative since long before *Sir Richard Burton* to look upon the direction of rivers either geographically or topographically, according to one's mood of the moment). Bristol, who was bisexual (and perhaps trisexual) and coincidentally another millionaire, bungled the project; but shortly thereafter, *Humboldt* bumped into the French explorer *Louis Antoine de Bougainville* (for whom, second-handedly, the WWII battle came to be known) with news that the French were planning a 5-year expedition to "everywhere," but, when war broke out with Austria, this too failed.

Then *Humboldt* met Bonpland. They planned to sail for Algiers in a Swedish ship, bribe the Dey of Algiers, winter in the Atlas, take a pilgrim caravan across the Sahara, and then on to Mecca. Whether Bonpland was gay or not is not certainly known — but again, Bonpland had several life-long gay friends, one of whom was *Humboldt* himself. In the end, they sailed for South America. Theirs was the first

consequential, scientific exploration of the Orinoco, even today one of the least civilized and most dangerous places on earth . . . or offearth for that matter.

Even as geographers, which was not their forte, *Humboldt* and Bonpland would rank with the greatest explorers of all time; but they were more than that. Trained botanists and finely-tuned zoologists, if nothing else, they proved to the world that it should wait to tame the interior jungles of South America, something we're just getting around to today. Among the Ottomacs, *Humboldt* came in contact with *niopo* (not specifically gay), an addictive hallucinogenic drug, but seems to have survived it without problem. Coming down with typhoid, he cured himself with a local remedy of honey and angostura bitters.

In 1800 they ascended Chimborazo, then thought to be the highest mountain in the world. Even today, there are headhunters within skyscraper view of Cali . . . and *Humboldt* was carrying on with the naked savages of America more than a hundred years before it was safe to walk around in America (a brief, fleeting moment chronicled in *Our Town*).

In fact, with the state of America at this Lewis-&-Clark period, it appeared fitting that *Humboldt* should pay a quick visit to his friend Thomas Jefferson before returning to Europe a run-of-the-mill Gay Hero . . . which he did, if on the spur of the moment. He arrived in Philadelphia on April 29, 1804; and Charles Wilson Peale, painter, lay scientist, and friend of the president's, became his companion. It was in Philadelphia that he learned, by accident, that his collections, sent to Europe three years previously, had arrived safely. Peale noted that "The Baron spoke English very well . . . He is very communicative and possesses a surprising fund of knowledge in botany, mineralogy, astronomy, philosophy, and natural science . . ." They arrived in Washington June 1.

Dolly Madison wrote to her sister, "We have lately had a great treat in the company of a charming Prussian, Baron von Humboldt. All the ladies say they are in love with him . . . He had with him a train of philosophers who, though clever and entertaining, did not compare with the Baron."

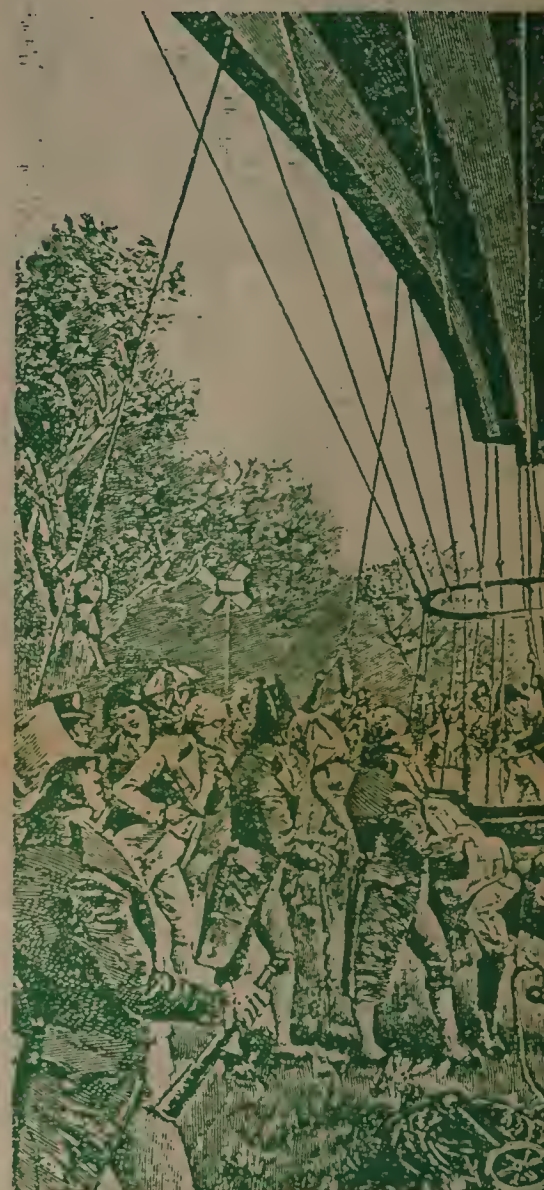
Thomas Jefferson noted that he and the Baron "shared political philosophies," but what Jefferson really wanted from *Humboldt* was information on Mexico . . . which he got. On the thirtieth of June, 1804, *Humboldt* departed for Europe, having spent a third of his fortune on his expedition. When he arrived, in perfect health, he was greeted with the newspaper headline: HERR VON HUMBOLDT HAS BEEN ATTACKED WITH YELLOW FEVER AND HAS DIED AT ACAPULCO.

Among the more picturesque additions to our present gay life-style is the humble, should I say *humboldt*, brazil nut, which *Humboldt* named *Bertholletia excelsa* for his friend the Comte Claude Louis Berthollet, the French chemist and *effite de salon*.

Europe was lionizing, but stifling. A series of gay tragedies struck. *Humboldt's* "friend" *Gay-Lussac*, on the sixteenth of September, 1804, broke *Humboldt's* own altitude record by reaching the height of 23,000 feet in a balloon. *Gay-Lussac* was so handsome that some French faggots claim that's where the word *gai* comes from. They were life-long friends: armed with a

declination magnetometer, gas analysis apparatus, and a meteorological balloon, they crossed the Alps in the spring of 1805.

It was while at Rome that *Humboldt* bumped into a 21-year-old Venezuelan revolutionary, wandering about, mourning the death of his wife . . . it reminds me of the day I, plain-jane me, was wandering about Staten Island, when I bumped into a house that the Italian revolutionary Garibaldi had once stayed in. But leave it to *Alex*, Simon Bolivar was still very much alive. A known "democrat," *Humboldt* advised his new friend that the Spanish colonies "already [have] reached maturity . . ." *Humboldt* could think of no man who could lead them to freedom. *Humboldt* had



16 September 1804: The Queans F Humboldt's altitude record. He reach

known Bolivar's fami., in Caracas and, though he cautioned Bolivar not to be "too hasty," it was Bonpland who gave Bolivar the encouragement he was, probably without fully realizing it, seeking. In the end, *Humboldt* "approved" it all . . . as if graciously wafting his hand in the air, granting benediction.

But revolutions fermenting had to wait. Vesuvius was about to erupt and *Humboldt* and his entourage just had to dash off to Naples.

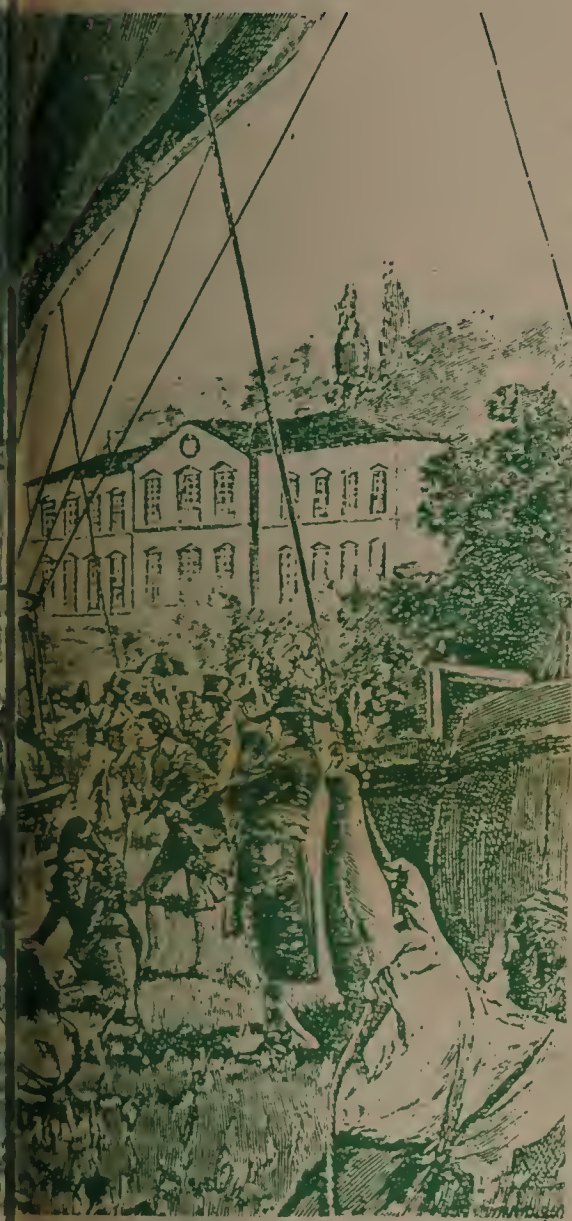
On April 1, 1814, *Alexander von Humboldt* met his brother Wilhelm for the first time in seven years. My, how Theodor had grown! All the "old folk" were there: von Gentz, Hardenberg, now Chancellor of Prussia, and Metternich, and, of course, the King of Prussia himself, "a stupid . . . cuckold, with a stutter and a passion for winding clocks and designing new uniforms." The king "attached himself to Alexander like a leech." *Humboldt* showed the king around Paris . . . few people, even Parisians, knew Paris like *Humboldt* did.

It was painful. The king needed him all the time. Wanted him to read to

of a Scientific Superman

him . . . out of his own books, amuse him, help him wind clocks, but *Humboldt* didn't completely waste his time. He had the king finance his expedition to Asia, obtained an advance towards the cost of his publications, and received an outright hand-out for 5,000 francs for "housekeeping expenses." Selfless to the end, *Humboldt* also weasled out of the king commissions for his artist friends for portraits of King Frederick William, Emperor Alexander, and the Duke of Wellington. He even got *Arago* the directorship of the Imperial Observatoire, which *Arago* declined.

In June, 1814, *Humboldt* went to London with *Arago*. Metternich, Wilhelm *Humboldt*, and, of course, the king tagged along. He gained from the



It Out: Gay-Lussac about to break height of 23,000 feet.

Prince of Wales, later King George IV, support for his "absolutely pioneering exploration," . . . to Persia, the Pamirs, the Kunlun Mountains of Tibet, across the Karakoram ridge and the Himalayas, down the Ganges to Ceylon, to Malaya, Java, and the Phillipines, returning to Europe via Boston.

But the British permit required for such a venture didn't come through until 1827. He pulled every string he could. In the autumn of 1822, he was summoned to attend King Frederick Wilhelm III at the Congress Verona and in 1823, with the King, he returned to Berlin for the first time in 15 years. He returned to his old castle, occupied by his brother Wilhelm, writing: "Stoned on warm beer and mulled wine . . . never in my life have I been so loved . . ."

In the spring of 1827, *Humboldt* spent nearly an hour at the bottom of the Thames in a diving bell used by Brunel during the construction of the Thames Tunnel. Three years passed, then the King demanded his return.

He took modest rooms, with handsome help, off the Unter den Linden, and sallied forth to his diplomatic

duties with aplomb. It was the Metternich era, not unlike our own Nixonian one . . . spies, bugging. *Humboldt* dropped comments like breadcrumbs. Metternich called him a "political schizophrenic." Metternich didn't like *Humboldt's* "relationship" with the king.

Humboldt lectured at his brother's new university, working relentlessly to overcome the public's apathy towards "science" and introducing "conferences" to northern Europe. In 1828, he organized a conference in Berlin to which 600 scientists came. But at the age of 60, in 1829, *Humboldt* was about to blast off . . .

Humboldt's next personal friend was the Tsar of all The Russias. He and his entourage went so far into Siberia the names are unpronounceable, even to Russians, at least in those days. State carriages were provided in St. Petersburg for the trip into the wilderness! Nicholas I treated *Humboldt* virtually as an equal; as ignorant as anybody but Siberians on Siberia, the Tsar had plenty to gain from such an expedition.

In the Urals he discovered diamonds, the first discovered there. At Tobolsk he met the son of Lotte Werther, immortalized in Goethe's first suicide-inducing novel; he was governor of the place and provided at his personal expense an escort, consisting of a doctor, a platoon of cossacks (*Humboldt* loved them), "for the duration of the expedition." After 2,300 miles into Asia, *Humboldt* noted that it "finally looks like Siberia."

Irtysk, Omsk, the desolate Kazakh steppes, they traveled just short of 13,000 miles. The tsar gave *Humboldt* a sable cloak worth 5,000 rubles and a vase worth 40,000. He despised the tsar and his politics.

But there is always one's public. Finally, *Humboldt* dragged himself back to Berlin (which he hated so bluntly that horrid rumors began circulating that he was going to write his *magna opera* [always gay] in French [sometimes gay]) to accept all the accolades, the awards, and the tons of money. Everybody loved his "Mexican information" and that winter he discovered "magnetic storms."

But then came Jena, a childhood haunt turned horrid, simply horrid (sometimes gay). Napoleon beat the germs out of the Germans the fourteenth of October. A Friend of *Frederick the Great* did not take this lightly. *Humboldt* came down with a nasty headache. The winter was grim. Schloss Tegel was looted, (shades of Tara!), the winter's stock of potatoes was stolen and *Humboldt* sat with his manuscripts scattered about, furniture smashed, his potatoes stolen and only a few millions of thalers worth of Greek and Roman antiquities, gold plate, and jewels secretly buried in the garden.

It gave him a few minutes to write, however, *Aspects of Nature*, the most popular — and royalty-ridden — work he ever wrote.

The Prussian king, in considerable "diplomatic difficulties," what with the French coming and going in the palace as if they owned it, naturally sent for *Alex*, making him an equerry to Prince Wilhelm, his brother . . . and packing them off to Paris to get Napoleon off his back.

Humboldt loved Paris. Even failure of the mission couldn't drag him away. He stayed for fifteen years. Fortunately, he spoke French. While Napoleon, the "greatest man in Europe," settled down at the Tuileries (Botting), the "second greatest" settled down in a

bedsitting room with *Gay-Lussac* in the Ecole Polytechnique . . . at forty sous a day. The war and the occupation had bankrupted him within months. While *Humboldt* and his brother owned vast properties in Germany and the Grand Duchy of Warsaw and had millions "in the garden," there was no way to turn it into cash. His brother Wilhelm, even though Minister of Education, was living in two rooms in Berlin with his wife Caroline. Even so, Wilhelm, in 1810, managed to found the University of Berlin (now affectionately called *Humboldt University* . . . and in *East* [not at all gay] Berlin).

Sarcastic but lovable, his conversation filled with *crescendos* and *fortes*, as Charles Halle (founder of the still-busy Halle Orchestra) said, he nevertheless set up shop: science, gossip, interminable correspondence, moving onto the Left Bank into students' quarters (he was losing his books and . . . well, we all know how it is . . .) and then . . .

Humboldt's life is not gay the way *Beethoven's* is or the way *Brahms's* is . . . but more in the manner of *Oscar Wilde* or even *Camille* ("I'm-not-a-homosexual-I'm-a-paederast") *Saint-Saens* (his first name was really *Georges*).

Francois Arago was a young, handsome physicist of twenty-six (now fifteen years younger than *Humboldt*). He was the "central passion, the key nexus" of *Humboldt's* life for the next half-century. *Arago* was a dark, romantic genius of Catalanian heritage, with an intellectual superiority which *Humboldt* recognized immediately. *Arago* brought out his *anima*.

But of course a half-century affair did not interrupt his passions for the artist *Karl von Steuben* (who painted a poor portrait of *Humboldt*). In 1812 he turned down a proposal of marriage stating that he was "wedded to science."

Humboldt was not getting anywhere with Napoleon and rumors broke out that, because his sympathies were so completely "French," he must be a spy . . . about to make his way to Weimar to deal with Madame de Stael

can adventures, the most detailed scientific study to that time accomplished.

Bonpland, on the other hand, having been appointed superintendent of the Emperess Josephine's gardens, and becoming her confidant after her divorce from Na . . . Nap . . . what's-his-name . . . and with her when she died in 1814, contracted what is neatly called "a disastrous marriage" with a young girl of "dubious reputation," and finally took a job in Buenos Aires as professor of Natural History. On an expedition up the (civilized) Paraguay river, in 1821, however, the fanatic dictator of Paraguay, Dr. Francia, sent cavalry to Bonpland's camp, killed his servants, slashed his head open with a sabre and put him in chains. He was dragged off to a Tim-buc-tu in the interior and put to work as a local garrison doctor.

Humboldt, from Paris, protested through every diplomatic channel that carried sewage, but Bonpland spent nine years in captivity, not being released until 1830. Loaded with medals, doctorates, and honorary degrees from all over Europe, he settled down in Uruguay in a shantytown with his miscellaneous native offspring. He died in 1858, aged 85; even in death, Bonpland incited trouble. A deranged native stabbed his embalmed corpse with a dagger when it refused to say hello.

Like somebody who spends so much on his outfit, then can't afford the cab to go out, *Humboldt* spent so much on his lavish publications, he couldn't afford to buy copies. Using antique type, handmade paper, folio leaves of copper-plate illuminations, and sending back plates which did not "amuse" him, he went through fortune after fortune. A set on Egypt, which Napoleon subsidized, for his own personal aggrandizement, to the tune of 3,000,000 francs (back then!) cost less than a set of *Humboldt's Personal Narrative*.

Humboldt, somewhat "financially embarrassed," decided to "tour Siberia." Literally. There was a "war of liberation" going on, a major invasion

Humboldt and Bonpland in the Orinoco, surrounded by their botanical and zoological specimens



or some such notorious people. Napoleon put a 24-hour detail on *Humboldt* (he was, after all, Chamberlain of the King of Prussia), but was finally convinced that *Humboldt* wasn't up to anything "unusual."

In the meantime, peeping out his window on occasion, he wrote a 30-volume treatise on his South Ameri-

of Russia. His brother was "involved" and so was his nephew, Theodor, a handsome youth of sixteen. Besides, it was now Napoleon who was falling on his backside and *Humboldt* was, after all, not only a German but a minister in the German government (!) despite the fact he was very much at home in

(Continued on page 11)

Christopher Street Comes Out

By Nancy Walker

Christopher Street, the gay world's new monthly magazine, has come out and is available for \$1.25 a copy at newsstands around Boston. It advertises itself as the "gay magazine for

and those exclusively addicted to masturbatory literature.

The quality of the writing is uneven, running from exquisite to ordinary, but it's never illiterate — a great relief after the surfeit of poorly-penned

sophomoric, heavy-handed and insulting piece of supposed satire, making mock of the Pope. (I am an atheist, and I was angered by it.) If the magazine is intended to be both sophisticated and witty, and is not meant to turn off straights and gays alike, it would do well not to alienate those with serious religious convictions (religion being a very, very delicate and sensitive area), by taking clutzy pot shots at the pontiff.

Freedom of the press should entail a sense of responsibility and an awareness that the consequences of what any publication says will be paid not only by the publication itself but also by the group which it represents. The gay community stands to suffer considerably for the folly of "The Fuss," which in addition to being offensive is neither entertaining nor instructive.

At the opposite pole from that unsigned absurdity is a poignantly stunning short story by Edmund White, "A Nocturne." Its powerful and heavily metaphoric prose paints a semi-surreal picture of what it is like for a man to realize through his current spiritual and sexual agony that he has become the kind of totally enraptured lover he himself failed to appreciate in the past.

Between the two extremes of "The Fuss" and "A Nocturne" falls the rest of the magazine's varied contents. The reviews, particularly those of the movies by James McCourt ("Fassbinder's Fatal Fox-Trot") and Brent Raulerson ("Grey Gardens Revisited"), and of three piano recitals by Eero Richmond, grab our attention with their integrity and skill. The "Letter from Portugal," by Alan Neil Marks, is a splendid rendering of the

attitudes of the Portuguese towards gayness. Ed Valentine gives us a telling discussion of the straight critics' attacks on Edward Albee and successfully demonstrates Albee's truly feminist approach to the institution of marriage — before feminism became the vogue.

Of particular interest to women (but not for women only), in addition to several poems and stories, is Bertha Harris' interview with Rita Mae Brown and Elaine Noble, whose intense warmth and light shimmer through the words.

The cover, stark and simple, shows an empty closet with the sun pouring in through the open door. As a good picture should, it takes the place of at least a thousand words, and very adroitly conveys its message.

Witty, clever, sophisticated, urbane (all the cliches we would use to describe *The New Yorker*), the cartoons in *Christopher Street* are the most consistently excellent elements of the magazine. For instance, one by Rick Fiala shows Noah, as the animals enter the ark in pairs, confronted by two men holding hands and saying, "But we'd still like two seats together, thank you."

Publishing a good magazine, to be recognized and respected by so amorphous an entity as the gay community or, even more specifically, the literary gay community, is extremely difficult. *Christopher Street* is to be commended on its fledgling effort which, among other things, indicates an intention to give equal weight to both men and women. With a little more discretion in its choice of material, *Christopher Street* could become a high-water mark in the history of gay literature.



"We're calling it 'Oklabomosexual.'"

the whole family," and looks suspiciously like *The New Yorker* in style and format.

Gertrude Stein says somewhere in *The Gradual Making of the Making of America* that what makes us lonely is the fact that no one really agrees with anyone else, so it is understandable that while *Christopher Street* may consider itself "the gay magazine for the whole family," I do not think it appropriate at present for such a general audience. A magazine for consenting adults would be more to the point.

It would probably have been disastrous had the first issue of *Christopher Street* been perfect: that would have left it no place to go but down (no pun intended). As it is, the July issue is a mixed bag, with something for everyone, other than the ultra-conservative

publications that have previously come out of the gay movement. Here at last is something — with several glaring exceptions — that doesn't affront our intelligence or offend our sensibilities.

Christopher Street's basically positive impact is marred by the inclusion of an ad for Eve's Garden, which seems out of place in a magazine with a high-toned bias. It is the only blatantly sexual ad, suggesting to women that "Now is the time to declare your sexual independence, or share it, with a vibrator! Why not?" The fact that the same ad appears in *MS* does not impress me. For the most part *MS* does not impress me. I was hoping and expecting that *Christopher Street* would.

A second and more alarming lapse of good taste is "The Fuss" (part of the "Out & Around" section), a

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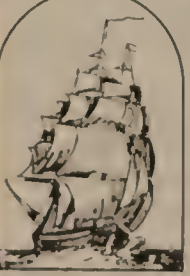
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Hustling Book Slurs Gays

For Money or Love: Boy Prostitution in America by Robin Lloyd; Vanguard Press, Inc. N.Y., N.Y. 1976.

A review by Michael Bronski

For Money or Love: Boy Prostitution in America by Robin Lloyd is a sloppy, ill-formed, and dangerous book that exploits its topic for all its worth. Supposedly sociological, the book gives itself away with a note on the inside flap: "Reader take note: this book may offend — there is sex and perversion, people who don't give a damn and who are out to make a fast buck." (After reading the book I wonder if this is an accusation or self-description.)

The book's basic problem is unintentionally pinpointed by Birch Bayh in his introduction. "While this book deals specifically with a hitherto undiscussed facet of the homosexual world, it primarily deals with juvenile delinquency. Lloyd correctly targets the cause not as a proclivity toward a specific sexual orientation, but as a seemingly general public disinterest in children." It is true that Lloyd does not give homosexuality as a cause of boy prostitution — but he is intent on telling us how terrible it is, and how *really* horrible it is when youth is involved.

When he is dealing with the problems of homeless, runaway, or institutionalized boys, Lloyd can be a moderately interesting reporter/investigator. He is a muckraker with a sense of outrage at the existing social services provided by state and federal governments. But when he has to deal with any gay-related issues, he becomes a hysteric, prone to misleading statements, insidiously-worded description and misplaced emphasis. Early in the



book we are told that there are perhaps 3,000,000 "chickens" (a word he first uses in quotes, then lets drop into common usage). In the last chapter we are told that no one knows exactly how many there are and the 3,000,000 is "at its best — a gut hunch." A chapter entitled *Violence in the Gay World* begins with eight pages of violence committed against children by parents in home situations — with tidbits of sociology thrown in — this is followed by two pages of capsule stories of gay violence leading off with the Houston murders. He then states "Stories of violence like these are commonplace and the emergent picture is that of the gay world as a bad scene . . . There is absolutely no evidence to support this."

Because the existing situation is so complex it is easy for Lloyd to hide his prejudices behind other issues. The picture he paints is one of hapless

young boys being used by older men, but is not child prostitution that worries him — and the problem of hapless young girls is never mentioned. He professes to have the child's welfare in mind, and he tells us terrible stories of brutal heterosexual family life; yet he still thinks it's worse for boys to be kept by older men. He assures us that most boys are treated fairly by their clients or keepers and then fills his chapters with stories of twelve-year-olds who are tied up, raped, burned with cigarettes and rented out wholesale. By blanching one statement against another he tries to hide his homophobia; but it doesn't work, we are left not with the flagrant lies but with the even more dangerous half truths.

It is impossible for Lloyd to see homosexuals and homosexuality as anything but unfortunate. "The homosexual community has adopted several

phrases to describe its lifestyle. They include 'gay pride', 'gay awareness,' 'gay consciousness,' and the 'homosexual alternative.' The first three are self-serving. The fourth . . . implies a choice of lifestyle which may be selected or rejected at will . . . the homosexual alternative is not the best choice . . . to choose the homosexual lifestyle is to compound instantly the necessity for self deception. To the young boy . . . the homosexual alternative is a triple horror. It isn't an occasion for celebration."

Aside from its obvious offensiveness, *For Money or Love* is badly written and appallingly presented. There is almost no documentation. It is common for Lloyd to give as a reference *Time Magazine* (no date, issue, or page); interviews and conversations are printed with no place or time given; assumptions and feelings are given as "facts." It seems careless, at least, that Birch Bayh, who has been involved with the gay and women's rights movement, could write an introduction to such an exploitive and damaging book.

Though pretending to be concerned about (boy) children, Lloyd manages to use every scare tactic to slur homosexuality. The picture that emerges, despite all of his more rational discussions, is that there is an alarming number of gay men who prey upon young boys, use and abuse them physically and emotionally and then throw them aside like so much litter.

Reader take note: This book raises many issues that deserve serious consideration in both the gay and straight community. It does not begin to approach the complexities or even the fundamentals of these issues. It promotes bigotry, mistrust, and hatred. It isn't worth the paper its printed on.

Humboldt

(Continued from page 9)

Paris.

It was all very confusing. When the staggering First Empire fell, and soldiers stormed into Paris, homeless and hungry, Humboldt, administrator that he was, saw to it that there was a military transport to carry animal feed to the zoo.

When *Humboldt* returned to Germany, he created seismology, the science of earthquake recording and prediction. Many came to him. One was Louis Agassiz, a Swiss, promising scientist, very cute, who eventually came to Harvard and gave his name to a street in Cambridge. Agassiz had "the master" alone for three hours . . . "he examined me . . . how to work . . . what to do . . . what to avoid . . . how to live."

Wilhelm died. *Humboldt's* only friends in Berlin were the banker Beer and his wife, parents of the composer Meyerbeer, and von Ense, an old friend . . . the scandalous letters to

whom were published after *Humboldt's* death.

Humboldt began work on his *Cosmos*, taking off after his gay predecessor *Sir Francis Bacon*, trying to make order out of the universe he never tired of observing and reordering. The *Cosmos* took twenty-five years. *Humboldt* fought for the Jews and for the abolition of slavery in Prussia.

Humboldt wrote to *Arago*, "You will arrive in time for my course on astronomy. My new lecture theatre is scandalously luxurious."

One day, with the King of Denmark, he nearly fell overboard from a ship and bruised a leg. In 1842 he accompanied the king to England for the christening of (later) Edward VII. *Leigh Hunt* found it amusing. Among the "aesthetes," the rumor was that it was the "King and Queen come to call."

After the Revolution of 1848, though a personal friend of the king

and a member of the government, he led the funeral for the republican victims, a painting of which is commemorated by von Menzel. He counseled Bismarck. Benjamin Franklin's grandson, Dallas Bache, a professor, said, "I went to Baron Humboldt by appointment . . . I left with a headache."

In 1858, at the age of 89, *Humboldt* began his fifth volume of *Cosmos*. *Everybody* was dead now: Bonpland, *Gay-Lussac*, Gauss, von Ense, *Arago* (in 1853, having spent some time in prison). But everybody knew him. Washington Irving, *Bayard Taylor*, editor of the *New York Tribune*, famous for his epigrams and gay wit. He finally asked the king to bury him at *public expense*, took to his bed, tired, and died May 6, 1859, "a simple running down of the biological clock." Only the clergy didn't walk in his funeral procession.

The homage was "frightful," the streets of Berlin draped in black and the populace in mourning. It was "the most imposing non-military funeral in the city's history. In front of the

cortege walked four royal Chamberlains, one of whom carried a red velvet cushion on which lay the insignia of *Humboldt's* decorations. The hearse was drawn by six horses led by grooms from the king's stable and escorted by twenty students carrying palm leaves, the Knights of the Order of the Black Eagle, the Ministers of State, the diplomatic corps, 600 students flanked by standard bearers, members of both parliaments, the Academy of Science, the Academy of Arts, the directors and teachers of the University and the schools, the magistrates and the municipal delegations," and the hearts . . . and maybe minds . . . of gays forever after who "understand."

IHI is interested in all gay events and people in history. As part of its on-going Gay Historical Research Program, the Institute welcomes correspondence. Write to: Brian Coombs, Director of Historical Research, IHI (that's The International Homophilological Institute), 165 Marlborough Street at Dartmouth Mall, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. 02116.

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Counseling for Rural Gays

By Marilyn A. Richard, M.S.N.

Since I grew up in Maine, rural Massachusetts is not strange to me. I am not surprised that the counseling needs of rural gays is an issue that is largely ignored by the mental health profession. That is why I feel that there should be more local community gay counseling services. And that is why I am helping to form the Rural Counseling Service in Littleton, Mass.

There are greater numbers of gay sisters and brothers in rural areas than has ever been estimated. Often people are isolated. Some do not even know another gay person. Distance is not the only factor in isolation; often rural gays fear exposure because there is no community of gays to support them. City gays can live without dealing with straight people on other than a business level, but rural gays do not have many social circles to choose

from; they do not want to be alienated from their neighbors by declaring their sexual preference when they can get by in the closet.

Feelings of identity with other gays are not that strong in areas where there is little or no gay community. Many rural gays feel that the gay community is filled with battling political factions and that they will not fit in. Others fear that upfront gays are more sexually promiscuous and will threaten monogamous relationships. Mainly, they are afraid, like all of us, of the unknown.

Exchange of information, of course, would help many rural gays. When there is no one with whom to discuss feelings, questions like "Am I playing a male role because I initiate love-making?" may become far more distressing than they should be. Rural gays often fear to subscribe to gay publications in case the mail carrier



Marilyn A. Richard and co-worker

Photo by Steve Savage

should discover their secret. Obviously, personal contact with other gays is most needed.

Some rural gays live their entire lives in the closet. Two New Hampshire women lived together for forty years but never told anyone of their relationship. When one woman died, there was no one to console the other. One young minister had to travel miles to the nearest city to see his lover. Often rural lovers put a great strain on their relationship because they cannot be open to outsiders. In all of these cases, an understanding counselor could help people through their hard times.

Rural gays have many needs which are only recently being talked about. I hope that the Rural Counseling Service can help. Right now we are starting rap groups so that people can meet, discuss their problems and not feel alone. Call (617) 486-3967 for more information.

Monty Python Breaks Barriers

A Review by Tom Reeves

Erosions of homophobia appear in the most unlikely places. Mind- (and otherwise-) blowing motifs which would have outraged solid citizens a decade ago are now provoking curiosity and non-hostile amusement on the Family Hour. Doubtless, Society is making a valiant effort to contain and package these styles and themes in sanitized wrappers guaranteed to keep meaning out and rebellion locked in. And meanwhile Society also does its best to infiltrate gay scenes with the straight-jacket of its own mentality. But sometimes I wonder if the "gay community" is aware of just how far

some trends have gone, and just what they could mean for liberation of the coming generation.

Monty Python is what I have in mind. Their humor, their message and their ethic are not exactly up-front, and they certainly have not dealt with women's issues, but from the point of view of homosexuality for men and male sex roles I think they are powerful and positive. I was always amazed at the homo-eroticism and the spoofing of machismo that managed to get into the living room on their TV shows. I found their live show in New York last week to be downright revolutionary.

A friend and I were among no more than a dozen adult males who were alone or in groups, so it was not what you would call a gay crowd. Pre- and slightly-post-pubescent youth were abundant, and most of them were boys. With them were quite a few

middle-class mommies and daddies. They didn't bat too many eyelashes (a few gasps and grunts were heard) when a young man's lovely but somewhat bony ass was spotlighted for an entire sequence (revealing a juicy kiss-mark and enlivened by titillating wiggles).



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The boys in the audience literally jumped up and down and cheered when the super-butche Lumberjack (with Canadian Mounties for a chorus) switched from macho lyrics to wallop home the point of it all: "I'm a Lumberjack and I'm OK, I dress up, like the girlies and hang around bars," etc. When a long sequence about a

dead parrot and choosing a bird for a pet ended with the male clerk asking the male customer whether he wouldn't really prefer him to the birds, the audience roared. They did not roar derision or silly laughter. They roared approval.

I asked nearby teenagers why they liked Monty Python. "It took a long time for most of the kids on Long Island to accept them, but now everybody is laughing. I think it's the unexpected roles," said one. Another said, "Because they give you what you least expect. They shoot all the baloney to hell about growing up and being a man."

For a moment I wondered whether it might take only another generation before straight and gay roles hit the dust. Then I went outside and saw all the snazzy cars picking up the kiddies. Money still buys more roles than fun and satire. But Monty Python is putting down Straight Man and suburban kids are cheering. That's good news.

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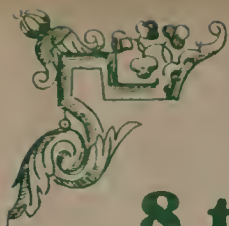
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Dignity/Rochester, P.O. Box 8295, Rochester
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2,
Village Sta. 10014 (212) 677-6090
Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley, Inc.,
713 Monroe Ave.,
Rochester 14607 (716) 244-8640, 244-9030
Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, 713 Monroe
Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-8640
Gay Community Service Ctr.,
1350 Main St., Buffalo 14209
Gay Liberation Front/U. of R., Todd Hall,
River Campus, U. of R., Rochester
14627 (716) 275-6181
Gay Media Coalition, c/o The Women's Center,
243 W. 20th St., NYC 10011 924-9434
Gay Men's Health Project,
247 W. 11th St. 691-6969
Gay Switchboard 924-4036
Gay & Women's Alliance for
Responsible Media, 370 Lexington Ave.,
Suite 416, NYC
Lambda Legal Defense and Educ. Fund Inc.,
145 E. 52nd St., NYC 10022 758-1905
Lesbian Feminists Liberation, c/o Women's
Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC 691-5460
Lesbian Resource Center (formerly GROW)
713 Monroe Ave.,
Rochester 14607 (716) 244-9030
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610
Mattachine Society, 59 Christopher St.,
NYC 10014 691-1066
MCC/New York, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th
Ave.), Sunday worship 7 pm 691-7426
National Coalition of Gay Activists, P.O.
Box A-711, Grand Central Station, NYC,
10017.
National Gay Task Force,
80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, NYC 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop,
15 Christopher St. 255-8097



June 8 thru 20



8 tues

Boston — Expressive therapy group for gay men interviewing from 5-10pm at 80 Boylston St., # 860. See News Notes for more info, or leave message for Paul Tellalian at 227-8882.

11 fri

NY — Gay Socialist Workshops at CUNY Graduate Student Center, 7-10pm, 33 West 42nd St. (between 5th & 6th Aves.), 2nd floor. Bring your ideas on goals and strategies for the gay movement.

Boston — Alex Kelly, local gay musician, performs his original material tonight at the Gay Men's Center. This is a benefit for the GMC. 8:30pm at 36 Bromfield St.; donation requested.

Boston — B'nai Haskalah invites all to special service introducing new liturgy at 9pm, 131 Cambridge St.

12 sat

Boston — Dignity national mailing party, 1pm, Newman Center, St. Clements, 1105 Boylston St. Many hands are needed.

Worcester, MA — Meeting of New England Gay Clearinghouse Committee, Academic Ctr., Rm. 200, Clark Univ., at 11am.

13 sun

Provincetown, MA — Cape Cod Women's Liberation hold weekly feminist discussions, 8-10pm, P-town Drop-in Center, 6 Gosnold St.; this week "Image of Women in Media."

Cambridge, MA — Gay Academic Union meeting, 2-4pm, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard, election of officers and "Gay Element in Classical Poetry."

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian Self-Help group at Women's Community Health, 7-10pm, 137 Hampshire St., info call 547-2302.

Boston — Gay Men's Center Fund Raising Bake Sale and Bingo, 7:30 at 36 Bromfield St., prizes will be awarded, to donate to the bake sale or for more info call 338-7967.

15 tues

Boston — DOB discussion of Q.E.D., G. Stein's autobiographical novel about lesbian triangle (it's in paperback), 7:30pm, 419 Boylston St., for women.

19 sat

Boston — Gay Pride Parade; gather at 11:30am at Copley Square for march to Boston Common.

Springfield, MA — SGA sponsors Disco Dance, 9-1, Unitarian Church, 245 Porter Lake Dr.; tickets \$1.

Boston — Party to benefit Women's Rights Project, 8-12pm, "The Castle," Stuart & Arlington Sts., New Harmony Sisterhood Band will appear, for reservations send \$10 to CLUM Women's Benefit, 68 Devonshire St., 02109.

20 sun

NY — Lesbian Pride Night, Our herstory in words and video, art show and pot luck supper at 6:30, show 7:30pm at Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St.

Springfield, MA — SGA sponsors picnic at King Phillip's Stockade, Forest Park; starts at 2pm, free hotdogs.

Submit Calendar items to Calendar Editor, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Ma. 02108, by noon on Wednesday prior to publication. Send items EARLY.



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